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27 NOV 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : CIA Comments on Key Intelligence Questions for FY 1974

1. The comments from DDS&T, DDO, and DDI reflect general agreement that many of the Key Intelligence Questions you listed in your memorandum of 30 October are still too broadly worded to serve one of the intended purposes; i.e., to permit us to measure with any degree of accuracy whether we have made progress toward answering them. Moreover, many of the Questions seem to be aimed at long-range considerations rather than at covering the short-run period (through FY 1974) as specified in your covering memorandum.

2. The attachment represents a consolidation of CIA efforts to re-write many of the Questions in an effort to sharpen their focus. We believe that our performance in answering the Questions, as we would have them amended, would be amenable to measurement. In several instances we are also proposing the addition of several new Questions that we believe meet your criteria for "Key" intelligence items.

3. I realize that the suggested additions would make the list of Key Intelligence Questions much longer and more comprehensive than you would like. On this basis, I recommend that you ask the NIOs to review this list and the other suggested changes you receive and that the NIOs recommend to you a revised list of Key Intelligence Questions for distribution to the Intelligence Community.

/s/ Vernon A. Walters

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Vernon A. Walters
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

Attachment

Classified by	
Exempt from general declassification schedule of E. O. 11652, exemption category:	
5D (1), (2) (3) or (4) (circle one or more)	
Automatically declassified on	
DATE IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE	
(unless impossible, insert date or event)	

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SUBJECT: CIA Comments on Key Intelligence Questions for FY 1974

ILLEGIB

CONCLID.

Deputy Director for Intelligence

21 NOV 1973

Date

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O/DDI: 21 Nov 73

Distribution:

Orig + 1 - Addressee
1 - DDCI w/basic
1 - ER
1 - DDO
① - DDS&T
1 - DDI File
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KEY INTELLIGENCE QUESTIONS FOR FY 1973

USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE

Soviet Political Dynamics

- (New) - The assessment within the Soviet leadership of US strength, aims, and international role
 - Factions, factors and policy differences in Soviet decision-making circles, e.g., the line-up in the Politburo on divisive issues
 - Soviet and Warsaw Pact policy and tactics with regard to political and economic relations with the US and Europe
 - Soviet strategic planning for and consideration of Sino-Soviet relations
- (New) - Soviet capabilities and intentions to extend their presence and influence in the key areas of the Third World and Japan
 - Soviet and Warsaw Pact strategic military planning
- (New) - Soviet attitudes and objectives on such important detente-related issues as SALT and MBFR
- (New) - Soviet views of major US weapons programs and the weight they give to the strategic and tactical significance of those programs
- (New) - The role of economics in Soviet military decision making
- (New) - The USSR's capability to provide continued military aid to third-world countries and still satisfy its own national security needs

Soviet ICBM Systems

- (New) - The effectiveness with which Soviet ICBM forces can accomplish their intended missions

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Soviet Nuclear Weapons

Delete: Impact of termination of underground testing (e.g., a comprehensive test ban) on development and deployment of Soviet nuclear warheads.

Comment: We know of no unusual pressure for a CTB that requires an answer to this question in FY 74, though it may be a legitimate question for long-range planning.

Soviet Long Range Aviation

(New) - Soviet development of air-launched stand-off weapons, particularly for the Backfire

Soviet Naval Systems

(New) - Soviet efforts and progress in improving the command and control of their SSBN/SLBM forces

Warsaw Pact - NATO Balance

(New) - Determination of Warsaw Pact force composition

(New) - Evaluation of the role and status of MRBM/IRBM forces as a factor in MBFR

Soviet Strategic Defensive Systems

- Soviet development of aircraft weapon systems with improved capability to intercept low altitude aircraft

(New) - Soviet capabilities to use mobile tactical SAMs to fill gap in low altitude strategic air defense

- Soviet development of laser weapons for both target kill and non-kill

(New) - Soviet efforts and progress in advanced early warning -- OTH and space-based techniques

Soviet Space Systems (new subject area)

- Soviet plans and progress toward using space systems for strategic communications, command and control, and reconnaissance

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THE PRC

Possible Changes in PRC Policy and/or Political and Military Leadership

- (New) - Effects of internal policy decisions and struggles on the intentions and capabilities of the Chinese PLA

LATIN AMERICA

Panama and the Canal Negotiations

- Panama's intentions and bargaining vulnerabilities in negotiating a new Canal treaty or related agreements; stability of the Torrijos Government

Cuban Policies and Programs

- Cuban activities and intentions in Latin America

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Inter-American Regional Organization

- Alignments likely to develop within or outside the OAS over regional or global problems

Capabilities and Intentions of Terrorist and Other Extremist Groups

- (New) Brazil's Efforts to Forge Closer Ties with Chile and Bordering Countries, and Argentina's Efforts to Forge a Spanish-Speaking Bloc to Counter Brazil's Growing Influence in Latin America

- (New) Stability and Attitudes Toward the US of the Argentine, Brazilian, and Chilean governments

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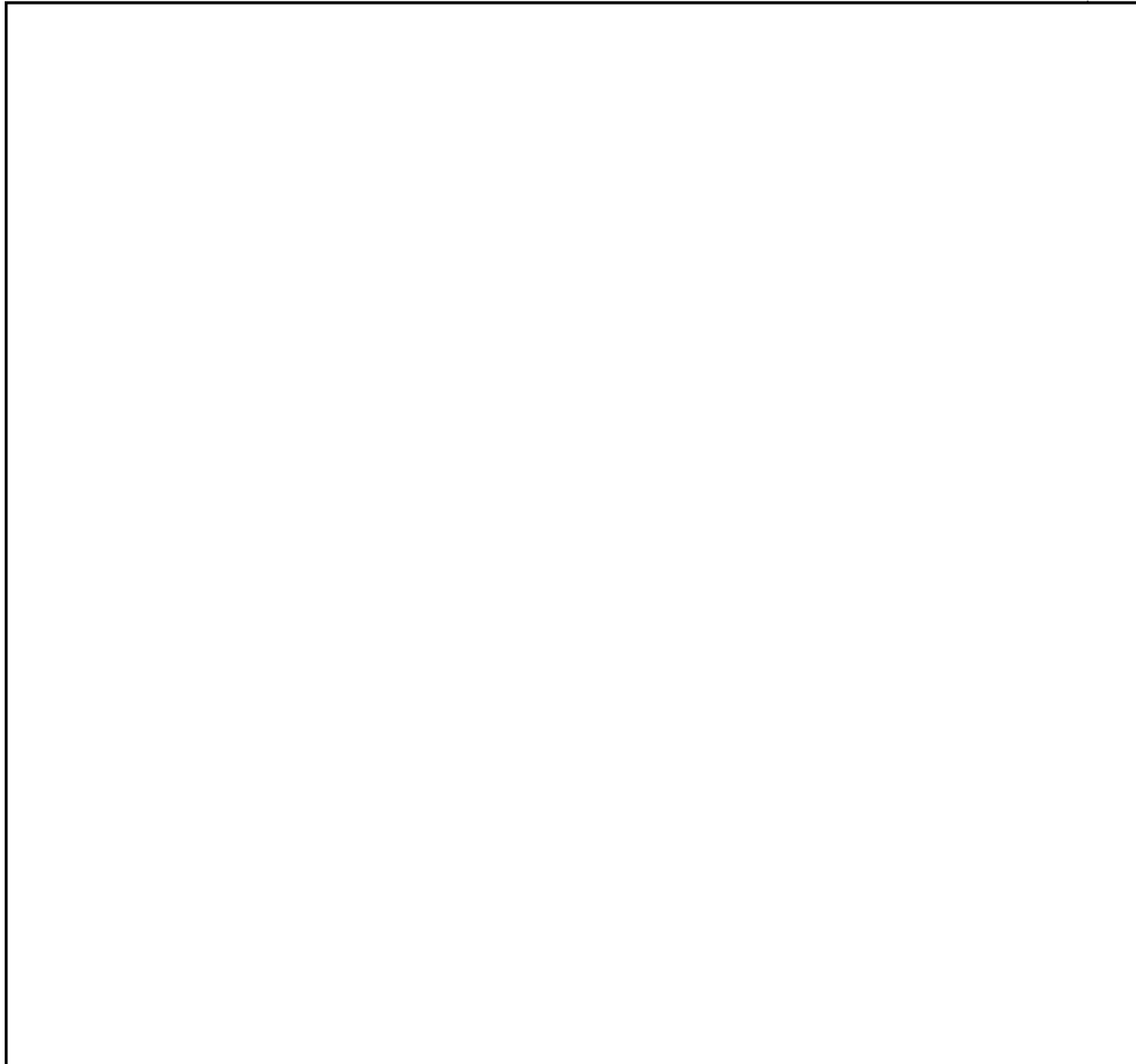
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NEAR EAST AND PERSIAN GULF

Stability of Persian Gulf Area

- Signs of increasing tension between Iran and its neighbors, particularly Saudi Arabia
- (New) - Developments in oil policy among major Near Eastern and Persian Gulf producers

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NARCOTICS

The production of and trafficking in illicit narcotics is a worldwide problem. So long as the narcotics problem continues to be of major concern in the United States, the intelligence community can expect to be involved in acquiring narcotics information. Key intelligence questions are:

Narcotics Traffic

- Identification of the major narcotics producers/traffickers and their principal collaborators; their vulnerabilities to prosecution, exposure and disruption of their networks
- Location of specific production areas, laboratories, and storage facilities
- Methods, routes, and timing of the movement of narcotics destined for the United States
- (New) - Capabilities and intentions of foreign governments to deal with the international narcotics problem

ECONOMICS

The Oil Problem

- Changes which are likely to occur in oil producers' policies or negotiating positions that may affect the cutback and price measures undertaken in conjunction with the Middle East crisis
- Prospective major long-or-short-term deals being negotiated between the OECD countries, especially France and Japan, or the EC as a whole, with the oil producing countries
- (New) - The effect of the oil shortage on European perceptions of the Western alliance and on their defense capability

A fourth subheading should be added after subheading three on World Crop Prospects, to read as follows:

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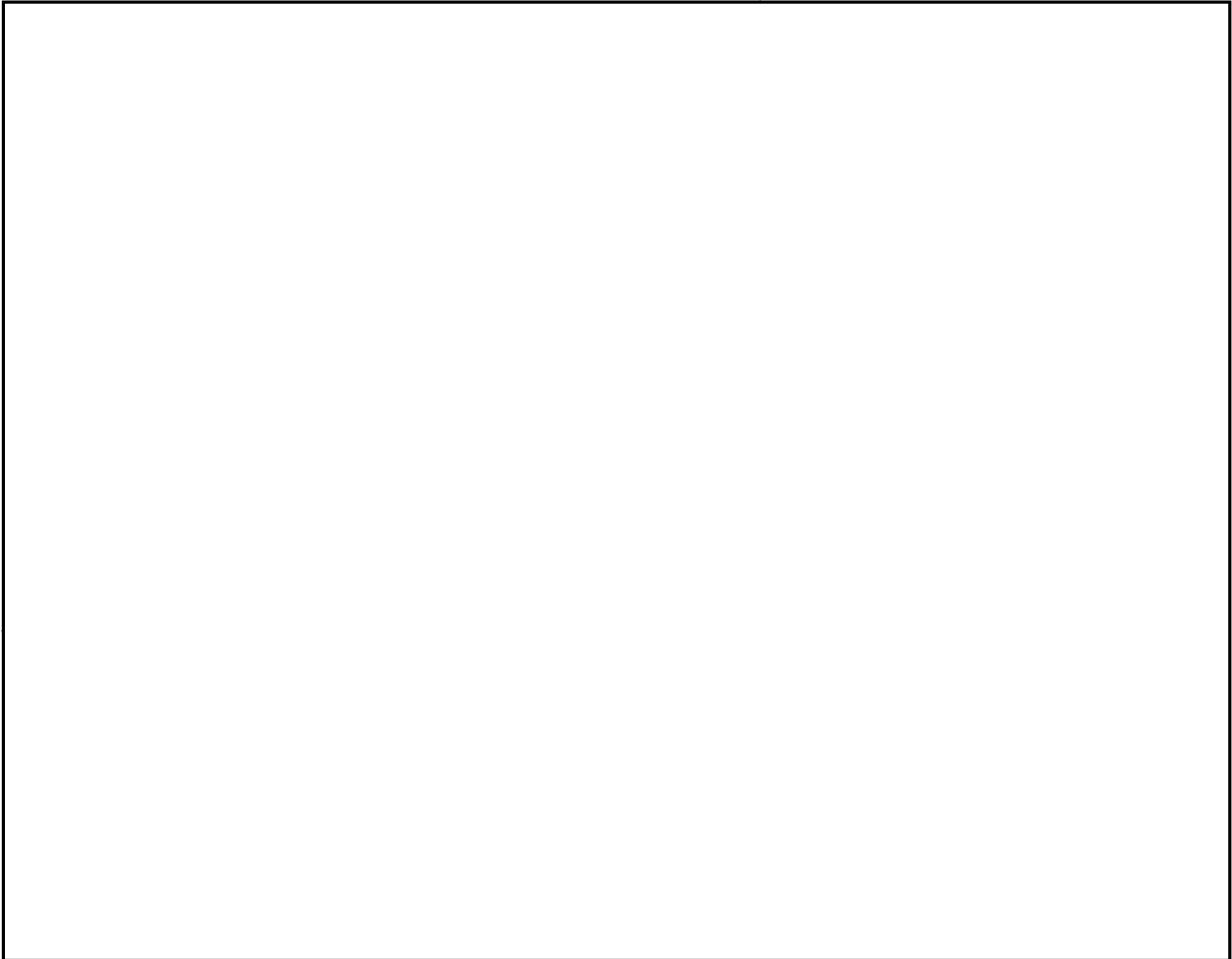
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The Third World

- (New) - The extent of US and overall Western dependence on resource-rich LDCs and their intentions and capabilities to influence US policies in international forums



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It is suggested that the following additional miscellaneous topics be added to the list of key questions:

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

- The intentions and activities relating to the development of nuclear weapon capabilities

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LAW OF THE SEA

Increasing competition for the use of ocean and seabed resources has stimulated the international community to attempt to devise new rules and dramatically new institutions to control use of the marine environment. An international Law of the Sea Conference will be held in the summer of 1974, and considering the importance of the issues and the strong divergent views held by the various nations, these negotiations may well go far beyond 1974. The outcome of these negotiations are recognized as having serious military, economic, and political implications for the U.S. The key intelligence questions are:

Negotiations

- Attitudes and intentions of key countries and blocs of countries on the contentious issues

Prospects for Confrontation

- Factors involved in the numerous special marine situations, such as semi-enclosed seas, offshore islands, island states, and the likelihood that any of these will lead to crisis and confrontation

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